



Raymark E-Mail Update February 15, 2008

As you may be aware, EPA's anticipated timeline for releasing the Raymark Operable Unit 6 Additional Properties proposed plan has been extended over the past few months. I am writing to inform members of the Stratford community that EPA will release the proposed plan sometime the summer of 2008.

This is taking longer than expected for two main reasons. First, in December 2007, the EPA National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) evaluated the Region's potential cleanup options for the Operable Unit 6 properties. Shortly thereafter, the NRRB issued a series of recommendations to the Region which included improving explanations of the health and environmental risks, further analysis of the range and cost of key components of the various alternatives, and better justification for the relevancy and applicability of certain regulations to particular alternatives.

Secondly, EPA continues to carefully consider the many concerns that have been raised by local officials and citizens in Stratford regarding their preferences and the range of cleanup options under consideration.

The additional time between now and this summer will allow for a more thorough review of the issues identified by both the EPA National Remedy Review Board and the Stratford community so that the proposed plan better reflects these recommendations and concerns.

For those of you who are not familiar with the EPA National Remedy Review Board (NRRB), it is a technical and policy review group made up of EPA staff members that have experience from both regional and headquarters perspectives in the Superfund remedy selection process. Its members include senior managers and technical experts from each EPA region, as well as senior technical and policy experts from other EPA offices. The National Remedy Review Board reviews proposed high cost cleanup decisions (those over \$25 million) to help evaluate whether they are consistent with current law, regulations, and EPA policy and guidance. The intent of the Board review is to offer a critical discussion on key remedy selection and cost effectiveness issues before the Agency finalizes its position on a preferred cleanup strategy.

At this point, the NRRB recommendations are not available to the public. We will make the recommendations public along with the region's written responses at the time the proposed plan is completed and issued for public comment.

We are asking for your patience as EPA New England staff and management complete the process of responding to the NRRB recommendations. We do apologize for the apparent lag in activity, but we assure you that EPA is working diligently to identify a way forward for this complex site that meets as many interests as possible. We have also initiated discussions with staff and management at the CT DEP concerning the technical and legal issues raised by the NRRB.

Prior to the release of the proposed plan, EPA is committed to meet again with the Raymark Advisory Committee, Save Stratford representatives, and local elected officials. EPA appreciates your efforts working with us in the Stratford community and we look forward to sharing with you the many aspects of the decision we are striving to resolve.

I will be in touch with both the RAC and Save Stratford contacts in March to schedule these future meetings. In the meantime, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Thank you.

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